

Special Topic– Women's History Month



Throughout our history women have made valuable contributions during wartime both in the civilian and military realm. What better way to celebrate, than to pay homage to those who paved the way in the domestic violence movement by learning more about the history? Read about the history [here](#). Also, March 8th marks *International Women's Day*. Inspiring Change is this year's theme for *International Women's Day*. This is an opportunity to celebrate the strength and resilience of ALL women and girls worldwide. For more information, go [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

OFFICE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

OFV will issue a new Request for Proposals this spring. The process has been delayed, as we wait to hear about the final budget amounts for both state and federal funds. Due to this delay, anticipate a short-term contract renewal for one to two months. You will begin FY 15 with the same budget and work plan that you have in place now. Once the funding for FY 15 is announced, the RFP will be posted and we will work with you on understanding the changes and the steps required for submitting a new proposal.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Seeks Research Projects of Laws That Improve Public Health

Grants of up to \$150,000 each will be awarded for studies that focus on the intersection of law and public health and are due April 15th. For more information, please [click here](#)

Fundraising Activities

ACTS has unleashed a new fundraising tool, *Crowdvance*, which allows them to set up fundraising campaigns for specific services they provide, for something as small as one utility bill or larger, like re-housing a client. When people donate online, they receive coupons to major retailers in return, such as *movietickets.com* and *reebok.com*. This is a type of peer-to-peer fundraising where individuals, who are ACTS supporters, can launch a campaign on behalf of ACTS by creating their own account. Check out their first campaign [here](#).

Board Development

Five Things Your Board Can Do to Lead with Accountability and Transparency (From GuideStar)

1. **Review & Share Organizational Financials** It is critical that each individual board member thoroughly review the financials that are provided and ask questions if there's something he or she doesn't understand.
2. **Conduct an Annual Assessment of Your ED:** Conducting a [formal, annual review](#) is critical to confirming that the board and ED are on the same page about the goals and priorities for the next year and ensures that the ED receives constructive feedback about his or her performance.
3. **Regularly Assess Your Board's Performance:** [Self-assessment](#) is a critical step in strengthening a board's own performance, and a powerful signal that the board is committed to effective and accountable leadership.
4. **Address issues head on:** The strength of an organization's leadership is tested by how it handles tough situations. Creating a conflict of interest and whistleblower policy can help.
5. **Lead with Authenticity:** Your board's actions reflect on your organization and its ideals.

To read the entire article, go [here](#).

FAQ– Grant questions

When will we see data from the new outcomes put in place on January 1st?

The report will be designed soon and programmed for domestic violence programs to run reports on VAdat in beginning July 1, 2014.

Training Opportunities



The Neurobiology of Trauma-Practical Implications

When people experience trauma, their brain function can be severely impacted. Understanding what trauma does to the brain, and the ability of trauma victims to cope with stress, learn, remember and relate to others, is critical for those working with victims of abuse. In this webinar, you will learn how trauma manifests itself in a variety of behaviors and approaches for victims and providers. *Date: April 16 3-4PM EST.* Register [here](#).



Free Online Training Series on Child Sex Trafficking

Webinar Topics:

- Introduction to Child Sex Trafficking for Healthcare Professionals
 - A Global Perspective, & Boys are Victims Too
 - Victims, Pornography and the Legal Response
 - The Demand Side: Traffickers, Buyers & Gangs
 - The Medical Evaluation of Victims
 - Using a Victim-Centered Approach When Working with Trafficked Youth
- For more information and to register, please [click here](#).



The Virginia Department of Social Services and Prevent Child Abuse of Virginia will host Virginia's 2014 Statewide Child Abuse Prevention conference on

Monday, April 7th at the Doubletree in Midlothian. The 2014 theme is Look, Listen, Respond. For more information, go [here](#).



The National Latin@ Network (NLN), in partnership with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV), invites you to join a webinar presentation to unveil a recently released special collection. This webinar presentation will be an opportunity to focus on a specific section of the collection that highlights culturally relevant tools and approaches to address and effectively respond to violence in Latin@ communities. *Date: March 27th, 2014 at 3pm-4:30pm EST.* For more information, go [here](#).

Other



The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, a project of Casa de Esperanza, is conducting an assessment of advocates' experiences seeking language access services for limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking cases. Please share your experiences so that our collective knowledge and experiences can make a difference. Completion of the needs assessment is expected to take 15 minutes and must be completed in one session. The assessment will only be available from *February 25, 2014 to March 11, 2014*. The link to the assessment is here: [here](#)

The 2013 Family and Children Trust Fund Report and Issue Brief on older adults and family violence have been published! Both publications are located on [FACT's website](#). To view the reports, go [here](#) and [here](#).

Self-care Tips– Self Compassion



As advocates in the field of domestic and sexual violence, we place ourselves in the presence of suffering on a daily basis. As a result, we often feel that pain in our own bodies. The implication is that we need to generate lots of compassion -- for both ourselves and the client -- in order to remain in the presence of suffering without being overwhelmed. In fact, sometimes we may need to spend the *bulk* of our attention on giving ourselves compassion so that we have enough emotional stability to be there for others. Try giving yourself compassion the next time you make a mistake or feel challenged beyond your ability to cope. This may involve gently putting your hand on your heart to physically comfort yourself, and/or saying kind, supportive words to yourself such as "this is so difficult right now, I'm sorry it's so hard," or whatever feels natural. *What will you say to yourself the next time you are in need of self-compassion?* To read more about self-compassion, go [here](#).